



July 31, 1995

Health Policy and Planning Division
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
1600 9th Street
Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Sir/Madam;

Our main disappointment with the outcome report of OSHPD data is the inability to differentiate minor and significant post-operative complications. This report gives minor expected complications and true serious complications the same weight. In addition, the data itself is questionable as the data base utilized is not intended for such use.

While there may be benefits from discussions of this data with sophisticated healthcare purchasers (e.g. insurance companies), the complexity of the statistical methodology compounded by the many disclaimers raises doubts that consumers will achieve anything but confusion and anxiety.

There are disclaimers on coding uniformity, definition and validity of specific complications, relationship of complications to quality, as well as statistical chance occurrences all of which negate the uniformity sought by risk adjustment.

We continue to support the concept of outcome studies but believe the ability to establish a relationship to quality of care will require a more refined, uniform and valid format.

Sincerely,

Ted Schreck
President/CEO, Eden Medical Center